



Ponca Tribe Early Childhood Programs

➤**Head Start**◀ ➤**Childcare**◀

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February 25, 2021

Director

Office of Child Care

330 C ST SW, 4th Floor

Washington, DC 20201

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how Ponca Tribe Early Childhood Center plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Corona virus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

1. Direct Services/Subsidies - Our agency plans to use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services, including subsidy assistance to essential employees. This includes, but is not limited to health care workers, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farmers and other food service workers. We plan to continue to waive parent co-payments for families. We also plan to provide learning materials to providers, in lieu of our lending library to reduce the back and forth contact due to Covid-19. We also plan to purchase a program vehicle to transport sanitizing products, learning materials and art supplies to providers. We plan to deliver these items to reduce the number of people entering our center and reduce the spread of Covid.

2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices - Our agency plans to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies and/or technical assistance to child care providers to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies in line with guidance from state and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We will use the CRRSA funds to purchase Covid sanitizer for sanitizing toys and surfaces within our facility and to our subsidy providers. We also plan to redo our kitchen to add a dishwasher and sink to reduce to spread of Covid.
3. Assistance to Providers not participating in the Subsidy system prior to the pandemic - Our agency plans to use CRRSA funds to provide assistance to eligible child care providers not participating in the subsidy program prior to the COVID - 19 public health emergency. We plan to continue to pay increased payments to all providers, including to those who were not participating in the Subsidy program prior to the pandemic. We will also use these funds to provide hazard pay to our agency employees. Sanitizing supplies, learning materials, and art supplies will also be provided to these providers as well.

The Ponca Tribe Early Childhood Center will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomasine Arkeketa
CCDF Director
Ponca Tribe